

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An applicator assembly, comprising:

an application member comprising at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, the application member defining a chamber having an opening in the at least one face; and

a holder configured to hold the product and to be removably mounted relative to the application member so as to permit the chamber to removably receive the product, the holder being further configured such that the holder has a substantially fixed axial position with respect to at least a portion of the application member when the holder is mounted relative to the application member.

2. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the chamber comprises a passage extending substantially entirely through a dimension of the application member.

3. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member is at least partially compressible.

4. The applicator assembly of claim 3, wherein the application member is at least partially elastically compressible.

5. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the holder is configured to hold product substantially in the form of a stick.
6. The applicator assembly of claim 1, further comprising a support member, wherein the application member is mounted on the support member.
7. The applicator assembly of claim 6, wherein the application member is fixedly mounted on the support member.
8. The applicator assembly of claim 7, wherein the application member is mounted to the support member by at least one of welding, bonding, snap-fastening, and crimping.
9. The applicator assembly of claim 6, wherein the holder is configured to be removably engaged with the support member.
10. The applicator assembly of claim 9, wherein the holder and the support member are configured to be removably engaged via one of screw-fastening, snap-fastening, and bayonet fastening.

11. The applicator assembly of claim 9, wherein the holder and the support member comprise mutually cooperative engagement mechanisms for engaging the support member and the holder.

12. The applicator assembly of claim 11, wherein the holder comprises screw threading configured to engage with screw threading on the support member.

13. The applicator assembly of claim 12, wherein the support member comprises an interior surface portion and the screw threading on the support member is disposed on the interior surface portion.

14. The applicator assembly of claim 11, wherein the holder comprises an exterior surface portion and the screw threading on the holder is disposed on the exterior surface portion.

15. The applicator assembly of claim 9, wherein the support member and the holder are substantially axially fixed relative to each other when the support member and the holder are engaged with each other.

16. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein, when the product is received in the chamber, the assembly is configured to be repositioned between a first position wherein the product does not protrude beyond the chamber out of the opening, and a

second position wherein at least a portion of the product one of protrudes beyond the chamber out of the opening and is substantially level with the opening.

17. The applicator assembly of claim 16, wherein the assembly is configured to be placed in the second position by at least partially compressing the application member.

18. The applicator assembly of claim 17, wherein the application member is configured to be compressed by pressing the at least one face against a surface to which the product is to be applied.

19. The applicator assembly of claim 16, wherein the application member is substantially uncompressed when the assembly is in the first position.

20. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the chamber has a substantially constant cross-section.

21. The applicator assembly of claim 20, wherein substantially the entire cross-sectional area of the chamber opens out onto the at least one face via the opening.

22. The applicator assembly of claim 1, further comprising a lid configured to cover the at least one face.

23. The applicator assembly of claim 22, wherein the lid is removable from the at least one face.

24. The applicator assembly of claim 6, wherein the support member is configured to be grasped for holding the application member.

25. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member comprises at least one block of foam having one of open cells, semi-open cells, and closed cells.

26. The applicator assembly of claim 25, wherein the application member comprises a plurality of foam blocks.

27. The applicator assembly of claim 26, wherein the foam blocks are concentrically disposed around the chamber.

28. The applicator assembly of claim 26, wherein the foam blocks are stacked vertically upon each other.

29. The applicator assembly of claim 28, wherein each of the foam blocks defines a hollow portion defining part of the chamber.

30. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member is made of a material chosen from polyvinyl chlorides, polyurethanes, polyethers, polyesters, elastomers of styrene butadiene rubber, elastomers of nitrile butadiene rubber, elastomers of silicone, and elastomers of nitrile.

31. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member is configured to be one of uniformly and preferentially compressed.

32. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member comprises at least one groove formed on at least a portion of the application member.

33. The applicator assembly of claim 32, wherein the at least one groove is on an exterior surface of the application member.

34. The applicator assembly of claim 33, wherein the at least one groove extends at least partially around the chamber.

35. The applicator assembly of claim 34, wherein the at least one groove surrounds the chamber.

36. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member comprises bellows.

37. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the application member comprises one of flocking, a textile, and a screen on an exterior surface portion of the application member.

38. The applicator assembly of claim 1, further comprising a grasping handle.

39. The applicator assembly of claim 38, wherein the grasping handle is configured to be associated with the application member.

40. The applicator assembly of claim 39, further comprising a support member configured to hold the application member, wherein the grasping handle is configured to be one of removably engaged and fixedly engaged with the support member.

41. The applicator assembly of claim 1, further comprising the product, wherein the product is held by the holder

42. The applicator assembly of claim 41, wherein the product is chosen from blushes, face powders, eyeshadows, lip make-ups, rouges, foundations, care products, sun protection products, self-tanning products, and hair products.

43. The applicator assembly of claim 41, wherein the product is intended for application to one of hair, skin, a fingernail, and a toenail.

44. The applicator assembly of claim 41, wherein the product comprises a make-up product.

45. The applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein the holder is configured to fixedly hold the product.

46. An applicator system comprising:

the applicator assembly of claim 1; and

at least one additional application member.

47. The applicator system of claim 46, wherein each of the application members has at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, each of the faces having a differing characteristic.

48. The applicator system of claim 46, wherein each of the application members has a differing compressibility.

49. The applicator system of claim 46, further comprising at least one additional holder, wherein each of the holders holds a product having a differing characteristic.

50. The applicator system of claim 49, wherein the differing characteristic is chosen from at least one of product type and product color.

51. The applicator system of claim 46, further comprising a case configured to hold the applicator assembly and the at least one additional application member.

52. An applicator system comprising:

the applicator system of claim 1; and

at least one additional holder.

53. The applicator system of claim 52, further comprising at least one additional application member, wherein each of the application members has at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, each of the faces having a differing characteristic.

54. The applicator system of claim 52, further comprising at least one additional application member, wherein each of the application members has a differing compressibility.

55. The applicator system of claim 52, wherein each of the holders holds a product having a differing characteristic.

56. The applicator system of claim 55, wherein the differing characteristic is chosen from at least one of product type and product color.

57. The applicator system of claim 52, further comprising a case configured to hold the applicator assembly and the at least one additional holder.

58. A method of applying a product to a surface, the method comprising:
providing the applicator assembly of claim 1, wherein a product is held in the holder and the holder is mounted with respect to the application member such that the chamber receives the product;

placing the at least one face of the application member in contact with the surface;
and

placing the product in contact with the surface.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein the placing of the at least one face in contact with the surface comprises compressing the application member.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein the compressing of the application member causes at least a portion of the product to one of protrude from the chamber opening and be substantially level with the chamber opening so as to enable the placing of the product in contact with the surface.

61. An applicator assembly comprising:

an application member comprising at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, the application member defining a chamber having an opening in the at least one face;

a holder configured to hold the product and to be removably mounted relative to the application member so as to permit the chamber to removably receive the product; and

a lid configured to removably cover at least a portion of the application member.

62. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the chamber comprises a passage extending substantially entirely through a dimension of the application member.

63. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member is at least partially compressible.

64. The applicator assembly of claim 63, wherein the application member is at least partially elastically compressible.

65. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the holder is configured to hold product substantially in the form of a stick.

66. The applicator assembly of claim 61, further comprising a support member, wherein the application member is mounted on the support member.

67. The applicator assembly of claim 66, wherein the application member is fixedly mounted on the support member.

68. The applicator assembly of claim 67, wherein the application member is mounted to the support member by at least one of welding, bonding, snap-fastening, and crimping.

69. The applicator assembly of claim 66, wherein the holder is configured to be removably engaged with the support member.

70. The applicator assembly of claim 69, wherein the holder and the support member are configured to be removably engaged via one of screw-fastening, snap-fastening, and bayonet fastening.

71. The applicator assembly of claim 69, wherein the holder and the support member comprise mutually cooperative engagement mechanisms for engaging the support member and the holder.

72. The applicator assembly of claim 71, wherein the holder comprises screw threading configured to engage with screw threading on the support member.

73. The applicator assembly of claim 72, wherein the support member comprises an interior surface portion and the screw threading on the support member is disposed on the interior surface portion.

74. The applicator assembly of claim 73, wherein the holder comprises an exterior surface portion and the screw threading on the holder is disposed on the exterior surface portion.

75. The applicator assembly of claim 69, wherein the support member and the holder are substantially axially fixed relative to each other when the support member and the holder are engaged with each other.

76. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the holder is configured to fixedly hold the product.

77. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein, when the product is received in the chamber, the assembly is configured to be repositioned between a first position wherein the product does not protrude beyond the chamber out of the opening, and a second position wherein at least a portion of the product one of protrudes beyond the chamber out of the opening and is substantially level with the opening.

78. The applicator assembly of claim 77, wherein the assembly is configured to be placed in the second position by at least partially compressing the application member.

79. The applicator assembly of claim 78, wherein the application member is configured to be compressed by pressing the at least one face against a surface to which the product is to be applied.

80. The applicator assembly of claim 77, wherein the application member is substantially uncompressed when the assembly is in the first position.

81. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the chamber has a substantially constant cross-section.

82. The applicator assembly of claim 81, wherein substantially the entire cross-sectional area of the chamber opens out onto the at least one face via the opening.

83. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the lid is configured to cover the at least one face.

84. The applicator assembly of claim 66, wherein the lid is configured to be removably engaged with the support member.

85. The applicator assembly of claim 66, wherein the support member is configured to be grasped for holding the application member.

86. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member comprises at least one block of foam having one of open cells, semi-open cells, and closed cells.

87. The applicator assembly of claim 86, wherein the application member comprises a plurality of foam blocks.

88. The applicator assembly of claim 87, wherein the foam blocks are concentrically disposed around the chamber.

89. The applicator assembly of claim 87, wherein the foam blocks are stacked vertically upon each other.

90. The applicator assembly of claim 89, wherein each of the foam blocks defines a hollow portion defining part of the chamber.

91. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member is made of a material chosen from polyvinyl chlorides, polyurethanes, polyethers, polyesters, elastomers of styrene butadiene rubber, elastomers of nitrile butadiene rubber, elastomers of silicone, and elastomers of nitrile.

92. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member is configured to be one of uniformly and preferentially compressed.

93. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member comprises at least one groove formed on at least a portion of the application member.

94. The applicator assembly of claim 93, wherein the at least one groove is on an exterior surface portion of the application member.

95. The applicator assembly of claim 94, wherein the at least one groove extends at least partially around the chamber.

96. The applicator assembly of claim 95, wherein the at least one groove surrounds the chamber.

97. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member comprises bellows.

98. The applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein the application member comprises one of flocking, a textile, and a screen on an exterior surface portion of the application member.

99. The applicator assembly of claim 61, further comprising a grasping handle.

100. The applicator assembly of claim 99, wherein the grasping handle is configured to be associated with the application member.

101. The applicator assembly of claim 100, further comprising a support member configured to hold the application member, wherein the grasping handle is configured to be one of removably engaged and fixedly engaged with the support member.

102. The applicator assembly of claim 61, further comprising the product, wherein the product is held by the holder

103. The applicator assembly of claim 102, wherein the product is chosen from blushes, face powders, eyeshadows, lip make-ups, rouges, foundations, care products, sun protection products, self-tanning products, and hair products.

104. The applicator assembly of claim 102, wherein the product is intended for application to one of hair, skin, a fingernail, and a toenail.

105. The applicator assembly of claim 102, wherein the product comprises a make-up product.

106. An applicator system comprising:

the applicator assembly of claim 61; and

at least one additional application member.

107. The applicator system of claim 106, wherein each of the application members has at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, each of the faces having a differing characteristic.

108. The applicator system of claim 106, wherein each of the application members has a differing compressibility.

109. The applicator system of claim 106, further comprising at least one additional holder, wherein each of the holders holds a product having a differing characteristic.

110. The applicator system of claim 109, wherein the differing characteristic is chosen from at least one of product type and product color.

111. The applicator system of claim 106, further comprising a case configured to hold the applicator assembly and the at least one additional application member.

112. An applicator system comprising:

the applicator assembly of claim 61; and

at least one additional holder.

113. The applicator system of claim 112, further comprising at least one additional application member, wherein each of the application members has at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, each of the faces having a differing characteristic.

114. The applicator system of claim 112, further comprising at least one additional application member, wherein each of the application members has a differing compressibility.

115. The applicator system of claim 112, wherein each of the holders holds a product having a differing characteristic.

116. The applicator system of claim 115, wherein the differing characteristic is chosen from at least one of product type and product color.

117. The applicator system of claim 112, further comprising a case configured to hold the applicator assembly and the at least one additional holder.

118. A method of applying a product to a surface, the method comprising:

providing the applicator assembly of claim 61, wherein a product is held in the holder and the holder is mounted with respect to the application member such that the chamber receives the product;

placing the at least one face of the application member in contact with the surface;

and

placing the unit of product in contact with the surface.

119. The method of claim 118, wherein the placing of the at least one face in contact with the surface comprises compressing the application member.

120. The method of claim 118, wherein the compressing of the application member causes at least a portion of the product to one of protrude from the chamber opening and be substantially level with the chamber opening so as to enable the placing of the product in contact with the surface.

121. The method of claim 118, further comprising removing the lid from the portion of the application member prior to placing the at least one face in contact with the surface.

122. An applicator system, comprising:

a plurality of application members, each application member comprising at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, and each application member defining a chamber having an opening in the at least one face;

at least one holder configured to hold the product and to be removably mounted relative to each of the application members so as to permit each of the chambers to removably receive the product.

123. The applicator system of claim 122, wherein each of the at least one faces has a differing characteristic.

124. The applicator system of claim 122, wherein each of the application members has a differing compressibility.

125. The applicator system of claim 122, further comprising at least one additional holder.

126. The applicator system of claim 125, wherein each of the holders holds a product having a differing characteristic.

127. The applicator system of claim 126, wherein the differing characteristic is chosen from at least one of product type and product color.

128. The applicator system of claim 126, wherein each of the holders holds a make-up product.

129. The applicator system of claim 122, further comprising a case configured to hold the plurality of application members and the at least one holder.

130. An applicator system, comprising:

at least one application member comprising at least one face configured to apply product to a surface, the at least one application member defining a chamber having an opening in the at least one face;

a plurality of holders configured to hold the product and to be removably mounted relative to the at least one application member so as to permit the chamber to removably receive the product.

131. The applicator system of claim 130, further comprising at least one additional application member, wherein each of the at least one faces has a differing characteristic.

132. The applicator system of claim 130, further comprising at least one additional application member, wherein each of the application members has a differing compressibility.

133. The applicator system of claim 130, wherein each of the holders holds a product having a differing characteristic.

134. The applicator system of claim 133, wherein the differing characteristic is chosen from at least one of product type and product color.

135. The applicator system of claim 133, wherein each of the holders holds a make-up product.

136. The applicator system of claim 130, further comprising a case configured to hold the at least one application member and the plurality of holders.